Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-80. CANCELED

81. (previously presented) A method for auditing a pharmaceutical purchase request, the method comprising:

receiving order data corresponding to a purchase request for pharmaceuticals, said order data comprising (1) data representative of a first entity, wherein said first entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is not eligible for an "own use" discount, and wherein said first entity comprises a retail pharmacy and (2) data representative of a first quantity of pharmaceuticals requested for purchase by said first entity on behalf of a second entity;

receiving report data, said report data comprising (1) data representative of said second entity, and (2) data representative of a second quantity of pharmaceuticals needed for use by said second entity;

processing said order data against said report data, wherein the processing step comprises (1) determining that said second entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is eligible for an "own use" discount, (2) determining that said first quantity matches said second quantity within a pre-determined tolerance, and (3) certifying said purchase request as eligible for an "own use" discount in response to said determinations; and

wherein the method steps are performed by a processor in response to executing a software program.

Claim 82:   CANCELED

83. (currently amended) The method of claim [[82]] 81 wherein said second entity data comprises data representative of a nursing home.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein said pre-determined tolerance comprises a first pre-determined tolerance, wherein said nursing home has a plurality of patients residing therein, wherein said order data comprises data representative of a first number of patients who are to receive said first quantity of pharmaceuticals, wherein said report data further comprises data representative of a second number of patients in said nursing home who need said second quantity of pharmaceuticals, and wherein the processing step further comprises:

determining that said first number of patients matches said second number of patients within a second pre-determined tolerance; and

further conditioning the certifying step on it being determined that said first number of patients matches said second number of patients within said second pre-determined tolerance.

85. (previously presented) The method of claim 84 wherein said order data further comprises data representative of a type of said first quantity of pharmaceuticals, wherein said report data further comprises data representative of a type of said second quantity of pharmaceuticals, and wherein the processing step further comprises:

determining that a type match exists between said type of said first quantity of pharmaceuticals and said type of said second quantity of pharmaceuticals; and

further conditioning the certifying step on a type match being determined to exist.

86. (currently amended) The method of claim [[82]] 81 wherein said report data comprises first report data, the method further comprising:

receiving second report data, said second report data comprising {2} (1) second data representative of said second entity, and (2) second data representative of said second quantity of pharmaceuticals needed for use by said second entity; and

wherein the processing step further comprises processing said second report data against at least one of said order data and said first report data to confirm a result from the certifying step; and

wherein the second data receiving step is performed by said processor in response to executing said software program.

87. (previously presented) The method of claim 86 wherein said second report data comprises an electronic version of at least one of the group consisting of a physician's order sheet (POS) and a medication administration record (MAR).

88. (previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the second report data receiving step comprises receiving said second report data over the Internet as a computer file.

89. (currently amended) The method of claim [[82]] 81 wherein the report data receiving step comprises receiving said report data over the Internet as a computer file.

90. (previously presented) The method of claim 89 wherein said report data comprises an electronic version of a retail pharmacy listing.

91. (previously presented) The method of claim 89 further comprising electronically converting said report data to a format readable by said software program.

92. (currently amended) The method of claim [[82]] 81 wherein said order data further comprises data representative of a type of said first quantity of pharmaceuticals, wherein said report data further comprises data representative of a type of said second quantity of pharmaceuticals, and wherein the processing step further comprises:
    determining that a type match exists between said type of said first quantity of pharmaceuticals and said type of said second quantity of pharmaceuticals; and
    further conditioning the certifying step on a type match being determined to exist.

93. (currently amended) The method of claim [[82]] 81 further comprising:
    in response to the certifying step, placing said purchase request with a pharmaceutical supplier at a price reduced by said "own use" discount.

94. (currently amended) The method of claim [[82]] 81 further comprising:

generating a status report for said purchase request, said status report including a result from said certifying step, wherein the generating step is performed by said processor in response to said processor executing said software program.

95. (currently amended) The method of claim [[82]] 81 further comprising maintaining a website, and wherein the order data receiving step comprises receiving said order data as input through said website.

96. (currently amended) The method of claim [[82]] 81 wherein said first entity data comprises data representative of a buyer's co-op to which at least one retail pharmacy belongs.

97. (previously presented) The method of claim 96 wherein said report data comprises an aggregation of said report data from a plurality of said second entities.

98. (previously presented) The method of claim 97 wherein said first entity data comprises data representative of a buyer's co-op to which a plurality of retail pharmacies belong, and wherein said aggregation of said report data comprises said report data for a plurality of second entities supplied with pharmaceuticals by a plurality of said retail pharmacies.

99. (currently amended) The method of claim [[82]] 81 wherein said report data comprises an aggregation of said report data from a plurality of said second entities.

100. (previously presented) A method for auditing a pharmaceutical purchase request, the method comprising:

receiving order data corresponding to a purchase request for pharmaceuticals, said order data comprising (1) data representative of a first entity, wherein said first entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is not eligible for an "own use" discount, and wherein said first entity comprises a retail pharmacy and (2) data representative of a first quantity of pharmaceuticals requested for purchase by said first entity on behalf of a second entity;

receiving report data, said report data comprising (1) data representative of said second entity, and (2) data representative of a second quantity of pharmaceuticals needed for use by said second entity;

processing said order data against said report data to determine a data value that is indicative of a difference between said first quantity and said second quantity; and

providing said second entity data and said determined data value to a pharmaceutical supplier to permit said pharmaceutical supplier to decide whether said second entity is an entity whose purchase of said first quantity of pharmaceuticals for its own use should receive an "own use" discount; and

wherein the method steps are performed by a processor in response to executing a software program.

Claim 101: CANCELED

102. (currently amended) The method of claim [[101]] 100 wherein the data value determining step comprises computing said data value as a percentage size match between said first quantity and said second quantity.

103. (currently amended) The method of claim [[101]] 100 further comprising:

receiving a confirmation from said pharmaceutical supplier that said purchase request is entitled to an "own use" discount.

104. (previously presented) A method for auditing a pharmaceutical purchase request, the method comprising:

receiving order data corresponding to a request by a first entity to purchase pharmaceuticals on behalf of a second entity, wherein said first entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is not eligible for an "own use" discount, and wherein said first entity comprises a retail pharmacy, and wherein said second entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is eligible for an "own use" discount;

receiving report data, said report data comprising data that evidences a need for pharmaceuticals by said second entity; and

processing said order data and said report data by (1) determining that said report data does not support said order data within a pre-determined tolerance, (2) downwardly adjusting said order data to a reduced quantity that is supported by said report data within said pre-determined tolerance, and (3) certifying a purchase request for said reduced quantity of pharmaceuticals as being eligible for an "own use" discount; and

wherein the method steps are performed by a processor in response to executing a software program.

105. (currently amended) The method of claim 104 ~~wherein said first entity data comprises data representative of a retail pharmacy., and~~ wherein said second entity data comprises data representative of a nursing home.

106. (previously presented) The method of claim 105 wherein the downwardly adjusting step comprises:

calculating a stand-by requirement of said pharmaceuticals for said second entity, and

setting said reduced quantity such that said second entity's calculated stand-by requirement would be met.

107. (previously presented) The method of claim 106 wherein the calculating step comprises computing a third quantity of said pharmaceuticals needed by said second entity for said stand-by requirement, and wherein the downwardly adjusting step further comprises (1) setting said reduced quantity as a fourth quantity, wherein said fourth quantity comprises an increase in said second quantity based on said third quantity such that said fourth quantity is within said pre-determined tolerance with respect to said second quantity.

108. (previously presented) The method of claim 105 wherein the downwardly adjusting step comprises:

calculating a third quantity corresponding to a stand-by requirement of said pharmaceuticals needed by said second entity; and

setting said reduced quantity as a sum of said second quantity and said third quantity.

109. (previously presented) The method of claim 105 wherein said report data further comprises data representative of said second entity, and wherein the processing step further comprises:

determining that said second entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is eligible for an "own use" discount; and

further conditioning the certifying step on it being determined that said second entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is eligible for an "own use" discount.

110. (previously presented) An apparatus for auditing a pharmaceutical purchase request, the apparatus comprising:

a processor and associated memory configured to:

receive order data corresponding to a purchase request for pharmaceuticals, said order data comprising (1) data representative of a first entity, wherein said first entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is not eligible for an "own use" discount, and wherein said first entity comprises a retail pharmacy and (2) data representative of a first quantity of pharmaceuticals requested for purchase by said first entity on behalf of a second entity;

receive report data, said report data comprising (1) data representative of said second entity, and (2) data representative of a second quantity of pharmaceuticals needed for use by said second entity; and

process said order data against said report data to (1) determine that said second entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is eligible for an "own use" discount, (2) determine that said first quantity matches said second quantity within a pre-determined tolerance, and (3) certify said purchase request as eligible for an "own use" discount in response to said determinations.

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Claim 111:   CANCELED

112. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[111]] 110 wherein said second entity data comprises data representative of a nursing home.

113. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 112 wherein said pre-determined tolerance comprises a first pre-determined tolerance, wherein said nursing home has a plurality of patients residing therein, wherein said order data comprises data representative of a first number of patients who are to receive said first quantity of pharmaceuticals, wherein said report data further comprises data representative of a second number of patients in said nursing home who need said second quantity of pharmaceuticals, and wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to:

      determine that said first number of patients matches said second number of patients within a second pre-determined tolerance; and

      further condition the certification on said determination that said first number of patients matches said second number of patients within said second pre-determined tolerance.

114. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 113 wherein said order data further comprises data representative of a type of said first quantity of pharmaceuticals, wherein said report data further comprises data representative of a type of said second quantity of pharmaceuticals, and wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to:

      determine that a type match exists between said type of said first quantity of pharmaceuticals and said type of said second quantity of pharmaceuticals; and

      further condition the certification on a type match being determined to exist.

115. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[111]] 110 wherein said report data comprises first report data, and wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to:

receive second report data, said second report data comprising (2) second data representative of said second entity, and (2) second data representative said second quantity of pharmaceuticals needed for use by said second entity; and

process said second report data against at least one of said order data and said first report data to confirm a result from the certification.

116. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 115 wherein said second report data comprises an electronic version of at least one of the group consisting of a physician's order sheet (POS) and a medication administration record (MAR).

117. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 116 wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to receive said second report data over the Internet as a computer file.

118. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[111]] 110 wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to receive said report data over the Internet as a computer file.

119. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein said report data comprises an electronic version of a retail pharmacy listing.

120. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to convert said report data to a format readable by a software program executed by said processor.

121. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[111]] 110 wherein said order data further comprises data representative of a type of said first quantity of pharmaceuticals, wherein said report data further comprises data representative of a type of said second quantity of pharmaceuticals, and wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to:

determine that a type match exists between said type of said first quantity of pharmaceuticals and said type of said second quantity of pharmaceuticals; and

further condition the certification on a type match being determined to exist.

122. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[111]] 110 wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to:

in response to said certification, place said purchase request with a pharmaceutical supplier at a price reduced by said "own use" discount.

123. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[111]] 110 wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to:

generate a status report for said purchase request, said status report including a result from said certification.

124. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[111]] 110 further comprising a website in communication with said processor and associated memory, and wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to receive said order data as input through said website.

125. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[111]] 110 wherein said first entity data comprises data representative of a buyer's co-op to which at least one retail pharmacy belongs.

126. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 125 wherein said report data comprises an aggregation of said report data from a plurality of said second entities.

127. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 126 wherein said first entity data comprises data representative of a buyer's co-op to which a plurality of retail pharmacies belong, and wherein said aggregation of said report data comprises said report data for a plurality of second entities supplied with pharmaceuticals by a plurality of said retail pharmacies.

128. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[111]] 110 wherein said report data comprises an aggregation of said report data from a plurality of said second entities.

129. (previously presented) An apparatus for auditing a pharmaceutical purchase request, the apparatus comprising:

a processor and associated memory configured to:

receive order data corresponding to a purchase request for pharmaceuticals, said order data comprising (1) data representative of a first entity, wherein said first entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is not eligible for an "own use" discount, and wherein said first entity comprises a retail pharmacy and (2) data representative of a first quantity of pharmaceuticals requested for purchase by said first entity on behalf of a second entity;

receive report data, said report data comprising (1) data representative of said second entity, and (2) data representative of a second quantity of pharmaceuticals needed for use by said second entity;

process said order data against said report data to determine a data value that is indicative of a difference between said first quantity and said second quantity, and

provide said second entity data and said determined data value to a pharmaceutical supplier to permit said pharmaceutical supplier to decide whether said second entity is an entity whose purchase of said first quantity of pharmaceuticals for its own use should receive an "own use" discount.

Claim 130:   CANCELED

131. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[130]] 129 wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to compute said data value as a percentage size match between said first quantity and said second quantity.

132. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[130]] 129 wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to receive a confirmation from said pharmaceutical supplier that said purchase request is entitled to an "own use" discount.

133. (previously presented) An apparatus for auditing a pharmaceutical purchase request, the apparatus comprising:

a processor and associated memory configured to:

receive order data corresponding to a request by a first entity to purchase pharmaceuticals on behalf of a second entity, wherein said first entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is not eligible for an "own use" discount, and wherein said first entity comprises a retail pharmacy and wherein said second entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is eligible for an "own use" discount;

receive report data, said report data comprising data that evidences a need for pharmaceuticals by said second entity; and

process said order data and said report data to (1) determine that said report data does not support said order data within a pre-determined tolerance, (2) downwardly adjust said order data to a reduced quantity that is supported by said report data within said pre-determined tolerance, and (3) certify a purchase request for said reduced quantity of pharmaceuticals as being eligible for an "own use" discount.

134. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 133 ~~wherein said first entity data comprises data representative of a retail pharmacy., and~~ wherein said second entity data comprises data representative of a nursing home.

135. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 134 wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to perform said downward adjustment by:

calculating a stand-by requirement of said pharmaceuticals for said second entity, and

setting said reduced quantity such that said second entity's calculated stand-by requirement would be met.

136. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 135 wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to perform said stand-by requirement calculation by computing a third quantity of said pharmaceuticals needed by said second entity for said stand-by requirement, and wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to perform said downward adjustment by setting said reduced quantity as a fourth quantity, wherein said fourth quantity comprises an increase in said second quantity based on said third quantity such that said fourth quantity is within said pre-determined tolerance with respect to said second quantity.

137. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 134 wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to perform said downward adjustment by:

calculating a third quantity corresponding to a stand-by requirement of said pharmaceuticals needed by said second entity,

setting said reduced quantity as a sum of said second quantity and said third quantity.

138. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 134 wherein said report data further comprises data representative of said second entity, and wherein said processor and associated memory are further configured to:

determine that said second entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is eligible for an "own use" discount; and

further condition the certification on it being determined that said second entity is an entity whose purchase of pharmaceuticals for its own use is eligible for an "own use" discount.